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Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A cheek, lip and tongue shield comprising:
 - a handle having a first and second end, the first end for gripping;
 - a substantially flat first shield having an anterior end, a posterior end, and an inferior border, the anterior end transitioning from the handle second end;
 - a non-hinging transverse member having a first end, a second end, and an inferior border, the first end transitioning from the first shield posterior end; and
 - a second shield having an anterior end, a posterior end, and an inferior border, the posterior end transitioning from the transverse member second end;

wherein the transverse member inferior border does not extend as far inferiorly as the first and second shield inferior borders, the first shield passively isolates the cheek and lip from an operative site, and the second shield passively isolates the tongue from the operative site, at least one of a shield superior border selected from the group consisting of a first and second shield superior border is located below an occlusal table and the transverse member is positioned to cross an alveolar ridge.
2. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the component parts are fabricated from a material that may be sterilized.
3. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the first and second shield are highly polished to provide a reflective surface.

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4. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the component parts are of a unitary construction.
5. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the handle is fastened to the first shield anterior end.
6. (original) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim 5 wherein the handle is fastened to the first shield anterior end by any one of the methods selected from the group consisting of screwing, welding, spot welding or adhering.
7. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the handle has a cross section of any geometric shape that will permit effective gripping.
8. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the handle further comprises an anterior grip and a shaft, the shaft transitioning into the first shield anterior end.
9. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the first and second shield are substantially planar in shape and oriented in a substantially vertical dimension.
10. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the second shield further includes at least one selected from the group consisting of an anterior flare and cupping throughout a substantial portion of its length on its lingual side.

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11. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein an inferior border of the first and second shields extends below a gingival margin and a the superior border of the first and second shields extends to at least the level of an occlusal table.
12. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the length of the first and second shields is an effective length to cover a predetermined number of teeth.
13. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein a handle superior border transitions into a the first shield superior border and a handle inferior border transitions into the first shield inferior border through the use of a transition selected from the group consisting of a slope and a radius of effective inclination and curvature to prevent the creation of sharp corners.
14. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the handle is set at an angle to the first shield.
15. (original) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim 14 wherein the angle is between about -85° and about +85°.
16. (original) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim 14 wherein the angle is between about -45° and about -45°.
17. (original) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim 14 wherein the angle is about 10°.

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18. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the transverse inferior border transitions into the first and second shield inferior border through the use of a transition selected from the group consisting of a slope and a radius of effective inclination and curvature to prevent the creation of sharp corners.
19. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the handle transitions into the first shield anterior end at a predetermined location between ~~a~~ the first shield superior border and the first shield inferior border, the handle superior and inferior borders transitioning through the use of a transition selected from the group consisting of a slope and a radius of effective inclination and curvature to prevent the creation of sharp corners.
20. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the transverse member second end transitions into the second shield posterior end at a predetermined location between ~~a~~ the second shield superior border and the second shield inferior border, the transverse member superior and inferior borders transitioning through the use of a transition selected from the group consisting of a slope and a radius of effective inclination and curvature to prevent the creation of sharp corners.
21. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the handle transitions into the first shield anterior end at a predetermined location between ~~a~~ the first shield superior border and the first shield inferior border, the handle superior and inferior borders transitioning through the use of a transition

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selected from the group consisting of a slope and a radius of effective inclination and curvature to prevent the creation of sharp corners; and
the transverse member second end transitions into the second shield posterior end at a predetermined location between a the second shield superior border and the second shield inferior border, the transverse member superior and inferior borders transitioning through the use of a transition selected from the group consisting of a slope and a radius of effective inclination and curvature to prevent the creation of sharp corners.

22. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein at least one selected from the group consisting of the first shield and the second shield further includes an access opening.
23. (currently amended) The cheek, lip and tongue shield of claim [[1]] 27 wherein a second shield anterior end is rounded.
24. (currently amended) A method for passively isolating a dental arch comprising the steps of
 - a) selecting an area of the dental arch to be isolated; and
 - b) inserting a cheek, lip and tongue shield over the selected area of the dental arch; wherein the cheek, lip and tongue shield comprises a handle having a first and second end, the first end for gripping;

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a substantially flat first shield having an anterior end, a posterior end, a superior border and an inferior border, the anterior end transitioning from the handle second end;

a non-hinging transverse member having a first end, a second end, and an inferior border, the first end transitioning from the first shield posterior end; and a second shield having an anterior end, a posterior end, a superior border and an inferior border, the posterior end transitioning from the transverse member second end;

wherein at least one of the shield superior borders selected from the group consisting of the first and second shield superior border is located below an occlusal table, the transverse member inferior border does not extend as far inferiorly as the first and second shield inferior borders, the first shield passively isolates the cheek and lip from an operative site, and the second shield passively isolates the tongue from ~~an~~ the operative site.

25. (original) The method of claim 24 further including the step of securing a moisture barrier with the cheek, lip and tongue shield.

26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) A cheek, lip and tongue shield comprising:
a handle having a first and second end, the first end for gripping;
a first shield having an anterior end, a posterior end, a superior border and an inferior border, the anterior end transitioning from the handle second end;

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a non-hinging transverse member having a first end, a second end, and an inferior border, the first end transitioning from the first shield posterior end; and a second shield having an anterior end, a posterior end, a superior border and an inferior border, the posterior end transitioning from the transverse member second end; wherein at least one of the shield superior borders selected from the group consisting of the first and second shield superior border is located below an occlusal table, the transverse member inferior border does not extend as far inferiorly as the first and second shield inferior borders, the first shield passively isolates the cheek and lip from an operative site, and the second shield passively isolates the tongue from the operative site.

28. (cancelled)

29. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein the first shield is substantially flat.